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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/756,891	01/09/2001	Mark Schavone	286308-00001	6717

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EXAMINER

HOLZEN, STEPHEN A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3644

DATE MAILED: 05/30/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/756,891

Applicant(s)

SCHAVONE, MARK

Examiner

Stephen A. Holzen

Art Unit

3644

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 April 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 9-32 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 4/21/03 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The applicant asserts that the recoil of Tippman and Chiba would be completely imperceptible to a shooter, yet provides no evidence to this fact. The applicant further asserts that the recoil will not come anywhere near approaching the recoil generated by a gun firing powder-propelled projectile. However has provided no evidence to prove such. Furthermore the applicants claim language merely says "approximately". Since the applicant has admitted that both Chiba and Tippman have a recoil and never clearly defines the degree of approximation the examiner content that Chiba and Tippman do in fact "approximate" a recoil generated by a gun firing a powder-propelled projectile.

The applicant arguments with respect to the claims are more specific than the claim language allows for.

In response to Applicant's arguments, the function recitation that "that is enhanced to approximate" has not been given patentable weight because it is narrative in form.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

4. The term "approximate" in claim 1 is a relative term which renders the claim indefinite. The term "approximate" is not defined by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tippmann (4,819,609). Claim 1 is also rejected under 35 U.S. C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Chiba (4,116,193). Tippmann and Chiba both disclose a gas-powered gun, comprising a means for simulating a recoil approximating a recoil generated by a gun firing a powder-propelled projectile. It is inherent that all guns "approximate" a recoil generated. By the properties of physics every action has an equal and opposite reaction. Dispersing a projectile at a high velocity in one direction, translates into a "recoil" resultant momentum of the gun, in the other direction.

Claims 2-5, 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) in view of Tippmann as applied to claim 1 above: Tippmann discloses a bolt reciprocating between a forward position and a rearward position, said bolt being biased towards its forward position, said bolt having a gas-receiving surface (#39); and

a valve assembly dimensioned and configured to discharge compressed gas both forward into a firing chamber and rearward onto said bolt face when said bolt reaches its forward position (see Fig. 5);

a stationary forward valve (see Fig. 5);

a housing reciprocating between a forward position wherein said forward valve is open, and a rearward position wherein said forward valve is closed, said housing being biased towards its rearward position; and a rear valve reciprocating between a forward position wherein said rear valve is open, and a rearward position wherein said rear valve is closed, said rear valve being biased towards its rearward position (see Fig. 5)

a spring dimensioned and configured to bias said housing and said rear valve towards their rear positions (see Fig. 5)

comprising a buffer assembly dimensioned and configured to bias said bolt towards its forward position, and to provide a recoil for a shooter (see Fig. 2)

wherein said buffer assembly comprises a spring-biased air resistance bolt driver (#39).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tippmann in view of ordinary skill in the art. Tippmann discloses every aspect of the present invention except for a bolt wherein said bolt includes a floating mass. However it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to design a bolt with a floating mass since the applicant's disclosure lacks any disclosed criticality having a floating mass. The use of a floating mass is a simple matter of design choice.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 9-32 have been allowed.

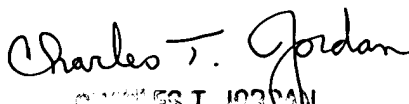
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen A. Holzen whose telephone number is 703-308-2484. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles T. Jordan can be reached on 703-306-4159. The fax phone

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numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-7687 for regular communications and 703-305-7687 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-306-4174.


CHARLES T. JORDAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

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May 29, 2003